



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Kena Rice

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters

1200 Epic Center
301 N. Main
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316)269-6481
FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office

444 Quincy
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office

500 State Avenue
Suite 360
Kansas City, Kansas
66101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 20, 2003

TWO WASHINGTON, D.C., AREA MEN CONVICTED ON DRUG CHARGES

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Norman A. Parada**, 26, Woodbridge, Virginia, and **John E. McNeill**, 31, Washington, D.C., were both convicted today in U.S. District Court in Topeka, Kansas, following a four day jury trial. Parada and McNeill were each convicted of one count conspiracy to distribute more than 100 grams (more than 3.53 ounces) of PCP and one count of possession with the intent to distribute more than 100 grams of PCP.

Melgren stated that according to evidence presented at trial, on March 12, 2003, Parada and McNeill were in a van that was stopped on I/70 near Junction City for a traffic violation. Law enforcement officers ran a drug dog around the van and when the dog alerted to the presence of illegal drugs, the vehicle was searched and officers found a gallon of liquid that contained approximately 340 grams (approximately 12 ounces) of pure PCP. The PCP had a street value of approximately \$400,000. DEA agents determined that Parada and McNeill had traveled from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles, California, to pick up the PCP and were transporting it back to the D.C. area when they were stopped.

Parada and McNeill each face a minimum of twenty years and a maximum of life in federal prison, without parole, on the charges. Sentencing is set for February 23, 2004, at 9:00 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Junction City Police Department, the Geary County Sheriff's Department, the Kansas Highway Patrol, and the Drug Enforcement Administration in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney James Brown in this prosecution.